

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Owens-Corning Inc.

South Carolina Manufacturing Extension Partnership

Three Owens Corning Plants Earn Iso 14001 Certification

Client Profile:

Owens Corning is a multinational manufacturer of glass mineral wool and extruded polystyrene for many applications, serving a number of industries. Three of the company's composite materials and solutions plants are located in Anderson, Aikin, and Duncan, South Carolina. The largest of these is the 400- employee Anderson facility.

Situation:

Although Owens Corning is a \$5 billion global manufacturer, these three South Carolina plants had already felt the impacts of a down-turned economy when they looked to the South Carolina Manufacturing Extension Partnership (SCMEP), a NIST MEP network affiliate, for help. Owens Corning Anderson, Owens Corning Manufacturing Solutions, and Owens Corning Duncan approached SCMEP as a group with the same goal--to achieve ISO 14001 certification by the end of 2001--but each had different needs for a tailored implementation plan. SCMEP offers a JumpStart program that expedites a company's preparation for ISO 14001 certification. While the process usually takes about 18 months to complete, SCMEP's JumpStart helps companies prepare for certification in only four months. SCMEP technical specialists and third-party resources provide on-site support a few days each month to help companies identify areas where they need to focus their improvement efforts.

Solution:

SCMEP began its work with Owens Corning's South Carolina plants by helping each facility scrutinize its existing environmental processes and identify their impacts on the environment. SCMEP then assisted each plant in setting targets to reduce any negative environmental impacts.

SCMEP enlisted the assistance of an independent third-party resource.

Together, they spent an average of seven days on-site at each of the three Owens Corning plants, teaching personnel how to implement and manage an environmental program suited to the site's activities, products, and services. This kind of hands-on knowledge transfer is critical to the ongoing success of an internal environmental management system.

SCMEP worked hand-in-hand with each facility to document and streamline their environmental procedures. SCMEP also cross-trained internal auditors at all plant locations so they could easily review processes company-wide if necessary. SCMEP guided each facility through its internal audits to ensure

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they were ready for the ISO certification process. Each plant earned ISO 14001 certification with no nonconformances during the review process.

Results:

Reduced environmental impacts.

Earned ISO 14001 conformance certification.

Trained Owens Corning staff to effectively manage their respective programs long into the future.

Testimonial:

"The South Carolina Manufacturing Extension Partnership helped us define the program parts we didn't understand, including identifying our facility's environmental impacts."

Steve Tenry, Environmental Health & Safety Manager